

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on lines 8-14 of page 5 with the following paragraph:

The present invention provides a novel execution environment for optimizing the efficiency of a distributed object system. In one embodiment, the invention includes a load-time compiler with ability to interpret, just-in-time compile or pre-compile any object of the distributed object system. In an exemplary embodiment utilizing an object based program environment, an object may be provided in a tagged file format allowing a load-time compiler to identify critical sections of the object code for immediate one-time compilations ~~compiles~~ while delaying compiling of the non-tagged, non-critical code until actually required by the system.